AGENCY OVERVIEW

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Statutory Authority

244 ND Forest Service

North Dakota Constitution, Article VIII, Section 6. North Dakota Century Code 4-19,18-10 and 57-57.

Agency Description

The State Forester has the statutory authority and responsibility to meet the forestry needs in North Dakota. The North Dakota Forest Service administers forestry programs statewide. The agency operates a conifer tree nursery at Towner. Technical and financial assistance for management of private forest lands, state forest lands, urban and community forests, tree planting and wildland fire protection are provided. The North Dakota Forest Service owns and manages approximately 13,290 acres of state forest lands.

Agency Mission Statement

The mission of the North Dakota Forest Service is to care for, protect and improve forest and natural resources to enhance the quality of life for future generations.

Agency Performance Measures

The North Dakota Forest Service utilizes an accountability measures process to assess progress toward achieving long-range strategic goals, and ultimately the agency's mission. Accountability measures are linked to the long-range strategic planning process to document North Dakota Forest Service Program outcomes. The North Dakota Forest Service developed twelve (12) accountability measures using the State Forester's goals and statutory authority. The State Forester's goals are directly linked to the authority granted under North Dakota Century Code 4-19, 18-10 and 57-57 to meet the forestry needs of the state. Performance indicators, units of measure and program accomplishment data will be completed for each of the agency's 12 accountability measures beginning July 1, 2015, and ending June 30, 2017. A biennial accountability measures report will be prepared by the agency after June 30, 2017. The State Forester's goals and accountability measures are as follows:

- To positively impact forest-based economic growth and sustainability of communities by promoting the wise use of natural resources.
- 2. To improve the protection of people, property and natural resources by enhancing interagency cooperation in wildfire management.
- 3. To support informed decision-making and foster individual responsibility in stewards of all ages by raising public awareness about natural resource values.
- 4. To meet the forest and conservation tree planting needs of private and public landowners by producing and marketing high quality nursery stock.
- 5. To meet current societal demands by ensuring the health, productivity and growth of private, community and state forests.

Accountability Measures:

- 1. Provide an environment for forest-based economic growth as measured by the percent of biomass and wood utilization businesses assisted.
- 2. Support forestry-based economic benefits as measured by the percent of financial assistance provided for forestry practices.
- 3. Enhance community wildfire protection planning at the local level as measured by the percent of counties that improve their level of planning.
- 4. Maintain or enhance rural fire department capacity as measured by the percent of fire protection districts that improve their capacity.
- 5. Develop wildland fire awareness and prevention programs at the local level as measured by the percent of counties that improve their level of fire awareness.
- 6. Provide education on the importance of North Dakota's forest resources as measured by the percent of K-12 teachers and students participating in educational opportunities.
- 7. Promote professionalism within the tree care industry as measured by the percentage of arborists that obtain training and certification.
- 8. Meet conifer (evergreen) conservation tree planting needs of North Dakota as measured by percent of customer tree orders supplied by Towner State Nursery.
- 9. Sustain North Dakota's natural resources through stewardship as measured by the percent of private forest acreage in active management and/or protection.
- 10. Develop sustainable community forestry programs as measured by the percent of communities and population served.
- 11. Ensure the health and sustainability of North Dakota's forests as measured by the percent of "at risk" forest resources surveyed for damaging agents.
- 12. Provide a quality outdoor state forest experience as measured by the percent of state forest land under multiple-use management.

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Major Accomplishments

- 1. Assisted six percent of biomass and wood utilization businesses in utilizing forest and municipal wood waste for renewable energy resulting in the installation of a biomass heating system demonstration in a public works facility in Bismarck.
- 2. Awarded \$873,828 forestry-based economic benefits for forestry practices serving 68 percent of the financial assistance needs of communities, fire districts and private forest landowners. Practices included tree planting, community forestry development, fire protection and living snow fences.
- Enhanced community wildfire protection resulted in the preparation of 17 County Wildfire Protection Plans encompassing 32 percent of North Dakota's counties.
- 4. Enhanced rural fire department capacity through wildland firefighter training provided to 175 or 51 percent of rural fire departments.
- 5. Provided wildland fire awareness and prevention programs including firewise concepts to 53 or 100 percent of North Dakota's counties.
- 6. Raised public awareness through information and education and fostered individual responsibility for conserving forest resources by delivering environmental education to 1,380 K-12 teachers (20 percent) and 29,324 K-12 students (28 percent).
- 7. Promoted professionalism in the tree care industry through training provided to 38 arborists (17 percent) certified according to International Society of Arboriculture standards.
- 8. Supplied conservation tree planting needs from 99 percent of Towner State Nursery customers through the sale of 1,124,760 nursery seedlings.
- 9. Sustained North Dakota's natural resources through the active forest management and protection services for 97,339 acres or 19 percent of privately-owned forest lands.
- 10. Served 197 or 53 percent of North Dakota's communities benefiting 88 percent of the state's residents with sustainable community forestry programs including the planting and care of street and park trees.
- 11. Ensured the health and sustainability of 550,400 acres of "at risk" forest resources through continuous surveys for damaging pests and agents.
- 12. Provided quality outdoor state forest experiences on 2,152 acres or 16 percent of the state forests under multiple use management.

Future Critical Issues

A wide variety of customers depend on the North Dakota Forest Service for technical, financial and educational forestry assistance. Invasive forest insects and pathogens, communities at risk from wildfire, and riparian (streamside) forest restoration are critical natural resource issues identified in the North Dakota Statewide Assessment of Forest Resources and Forest Resource Strategy. The assessment and strategy provide a long-term, comprehensive plan for sustaining North Dakota's forest resources.

Invasive insects and pathogens are some of the greatest threats to native forests, shade trees, and woody horticultural crops in the United States. Emerald ash borer is a highly invasive exotic insect that attacks and kills all species of North American ash trees. Since its introduction in Michigan in 2002, emerald ash borer has killed 50 million ash trees in Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and the provinces of Ontario and Quebec, Canada. Across the United States, hundreds of millions more ash trees are at risk. The infestation has prompted state, federal and university personnel in North Dakota to implement contingency planning efforts for prevention, detection and response. State Foresters in Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota and South Dakota engaged in a regional initiative to prepare for the arrival of invasive pests such as emerald ash borer that threaten tree resources in the northern plains. The Great Plains Tree and Forest Invasives Initiative enabled collaboration among state forestry agencies to create public awareness, promote species diversity, assess the region's tree resources and determine the potential social, economic and environmental impacts of invasive species. Early prevention and detection can reduce the overall cost to communities, nursery industry, and landowners by either preventing pest establishment or managing infestations. With emerald ash borer now found in Minnesota, it is likely to arrive somewhere in North Dakota in the next few years. Significant financial resources are needed now to slow the spread of invasives and mitigate their impacts on North Dakota's agricultural producers, forest resources and communities.

Communities at risk from wildfire represent a continuing challenge throughout significant portions of North Dakota. On average, North Dakota experiences over 440 human-caused wildfires that burn in excess of 29,000 acres each year. With a dispersed population, North Dakota relies heavily upon rural fire departments and local governments for wildfire protection and suppression. Landowners, local government officials and fire departments are working collaboratively with the North Dakota Forest Service and other federal agencies to develop Community Wildfire Protection Plans. A collaborative approach to preparing these plans ensures successful implementation and the protection of people, homes and critical natural resources from catastrophic wildfires. Adding to the wildfire threat is the rapid increase in population, infrastructure

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and industry, which has resulted in an increase in fire occurrences across the state. The area of wildland urban and industrial interface, zones where human development intermingles with undeveloped land, is growing across the state. At the same time, the number of fire departments registered with the State Fire Marshal's office decreased from 397 in 2009 to 341 in 2013, placing addition responsibility on smaller rural fire departments that are most often staffed by volunteers. Firefighting resources are declining and placing more responsibility for initial attack on rural fire departments.

Riparian (streamside) forest restoration is a critical need along North Dakota's major rivers and their tributaries. Streamside forests function as filters to improve water quality, stabilize stream banks and reduce downstream flooding. The management and protection of forested riparian areas can prevent sedimentation by holding soil in place. Sedimentation of streams and water bodies has been labeled as the major source of non-point water pollution in the United States. The decline of streamside forests is closely linked to the impacts of Dutch elm disease and forest conversion for competing land uses. Likewise, devastating floods severely damaged riparian and community forests along the Missouri, Mouse, Sheyenne and Red Rivers, as well as the Devils Lake basin. Foresters estimate 33,518 acres of riparian forests on the Missouri and Mouse Rivers, and 3,028 acres of inundated community forests are at risk due to flood damage and tree mortality. Thousands of dead and toppled trees have been inventoried on public lands along the Missouri. The North Dakota Forest Service, in partnership with other agencies, is working to restore riparian forests on the Missouri and Mouse Rivers through a 2013-2015 Forest Restoration Initiative. The initiative is focusing on implementing best management practices to improve water quality and restore forest health. A 2013-15 state priority initiative would implement similar forest restoration projects on the Missouri and Mouse Rivers.

Critical budget needs for the 2015-17 biennium focus on organizational capacity measures to increase program efficiencies, strengthen customer service, promote teamwork and allow flexibility to address emerging natural resource issues. Key programs benefiting communities, fire districts, and private forest landowners include Community Forestry, Fire Protection, Forest Health and Forest Stewardship.

REQUEST SUMMARY

Date: 12/23/2014 244 ND Forest Service Bill#: HB1003 Time: 12:28:47 Biennium: 2015-2017

5	Expenditures	Present	Budget	Requested Budget	Optional
Description	2011-2013	Budget	Request	2015-2017	Budget
	Biennium	2013-2015	Change	Biennium	Request
By Major Program					
Operations	5,037,198	6,652,065	(268,089)	6,383,976	633,731
Capital Assets	122,190	916,210	(636,907)	279,303	0
Total Major Program	5,159,388	7,568,275	(904,996)	6,663,279	633,731
By Line Item					
Operating Expenses	4,738,970	6,249,979	133,997	6,383,976	633,731
Capital Assets	103,791	916,210	(636,907)	279,303	0
Biennium Carryover	316,627	402,086	(402,086)	0	0
Total Line Items	5,159,388	7,568,275	(904,996)	6,663,279	633,731
By Funding Source					
General Fund	3,885,198	5,918,275	(904,996)	5,013,279	633,731
Federal Funds					
Special Funds	1,274,190	1,650,000	0	1,650,000	0
Total Funding Source	5,159,388	7,568,275	(904,996)	6,663,279	633,731
Total FTE	28.00	28.96	0.00	28.96	3.00

REQUEST DETAIL

244 ND Forest Service Biennium: 2015-2017

Bill#: HB1003

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Description	Expenditures 2011-2013	Present Budget	Budget Request	Requested Budget 2015-2017	Optional Budget
Description	Biennium	2013-2015	Change	Biennium	Request
Operating Expenses	Diominani	2010 2010	- Change	Diominani	rtoquoot
Operating Fees and Services	4,738,970	6,249,979	133,997	6,383,976	633,731
Total	4,738,970	6,249,979	133,997	6,383,976	633,731
Operating Expenses					
General Fund	3,723,143	4,599,979	133,997	4,733,976	633,731
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0
Special Funds	1,015,827	1,650,000	0	1,650,000	0
Total	4,738,970	6,249,979	133,997	6,383,976	633,731
Capital Assets					
Land and Buildings	6,000	785,000	(785,000)	0	0
Extraordinary Repairs	41,543	74,962	148,093	223,055	0
Equipment Over \$5000	56,248	56,248	0	56,248	0
Total	103,791	916,210	(636,907)	279,303	0
Canital Access					
Capital Assets General Fund	97,791	916,210	(636,907)	279,303	0
Federal Funds	0	910,210	(030,907)	279,303	0
Special Funds	6,000	0	0	0	0
Total	103,791	916,210	(636,907)	279,303	0
		0.10,2.10	(000,001)	2.0,000	
Biennium Carryover					
Operating Fees and Services	298,228	402,086	(402,086)	0	0
Land and Buildings	18,399	0	0	0	0
Total	316,627	402,086	(402,086)	0	0
Biennium Carryover					
General Fund	64,264	402,086	(402,086)	0	0
Federal Funds	0 1,20 1	0	0	0	0
Special Funds	252,363	0	0	0	0
Total	316,627	402,086	(402,086)	0	0
Funding Sources					
General Fund	3,885,198	5,918,275	(904,996)	5,013,279	633,731
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0
Special Funds	1,274,190	1,650,000	0	1,650,000	0
Total Funding Sources	5,159,388	7,568,275	(904,996)	6,663,279	633,731

CHANGE PACKAGE SUMMARY

244 ND Forest Service

Biennium: 2015-2017

Bill#: HB1003

Date: Time: 12/23/2014 12:28:47

Description	Priority	FTE	General Fund	Federal Funds	Special Funds	Total Funds
Base Budget Changes						
One Time Budget Changes						
A-E 1 Remove 2013-15 Capital Projects		0.00	(785,000)	0	0	(785,000)
A-E 3 Remove Deferred Maintenance Pool		0.00	(30,000)	0	0	(30,000)
A-E 6 Remove 2011-13 Operating Carryover		0.00	(402,086)	0	0	(402,086)
Total One Time Budget Changes		0.00	(1,217,086)	0	0	(1,217,086)
Ongoing Budget Changes						
A-A 1 CTC, Operating Inflation and Utilities Increases		0.00	133,997	0	0	133,997
A-A 20 2013-15 Adjusted FTE		28.96	0	0	0	0
A-A 5 Base Funding for Equipment over \$5,000		0.00	56,248	0	0	56,248
A-A 6 Base Plus Incr for Extraordinary Repairs		0.00	223,055	0	0	223,055
A-F 2 Remove Base Funding Extraordinary Repairs		0.00	(44,962)	0	0	(44,962)
A-F 4 Remove Base Funding Equipment over \$5,000		0.00	(56,248)	0	0	(56,248)
Base Payroll Change		(28.96)	0	0	0	0
Total Ongoing Budget Changes		0.00	312,090	0	0	312,090
Total Base Budget Changes		0.00	(904,996)	0	0	(904,996)
Optional Budget Changes						
Ongoing Optional Changes						
A-C 5 Forest Service Fire Protection Initiative	1	3.00	633,731	0	0	633,731
Total Ongoing Optional Changes		3.00	633,731	0	0	633,731
Total Optional Budget Changes		3.00	633,731	0	0	633,731

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Change Group: A	Change Type: A	Change No: 1	Priority:		

CTC, Operating Inflation and Utilities Increases

Includes the cost to continue the FY15 legislatively approved salary increases, estimated operating inflation, estimated utility rate/usage increases and estimated utilities for buildings coming online in the 2015-17 biennium:

- \$48,974 Continuation of 14-15 legislatively funded salary increase @ 3%.
- \$85,023 Operating inflation (excluding utilities) of 2.4% for FY16 and 2.5% for FY17, based on projections from Economy.Com.
- \$0 Projected utility cost increases & buildings coming online in 15-17, based on recent actual and projected cost increases.

Change Group: A Change Type: A Change No: 4 Priority:

Other Revenue Change

The Forest Service is not requesting any other revenue changes.

Change Group: A Change Type: A Change No: 5 Priority:

Base Funding for Equipment over \$5,000

This provides an amount equal to the 2013-15 base funding of \$56,248 for equipment > \$5,000, and is equivalent to the amount removed in the cost to continue **change code AF4**.

 Change Group: A
 Change Type: A
 Change No: 6
 Priority:

Base Plus Incr for Extraordinary Repairs

Currently, the campuses and Forest Service receive \$11,162,008 in base funding for extraordinary repairs, which is equivalent to an overall average of 12.7% of the OMB building and infrastructure formulas. In the IBARS process, we are required to remove base funding for extraordinary repairs (see change code AF2). The 2015-17 NDUS budget request includes a total increase of \$32,860,444 to provide increased base funding for facilities and infrastructure repairs and maintenance, equivalent to 50% of OMB building and infrastructure formulas. The AA6 budget change code includes restoring the base amount removed in change code AF2, as well as the requested increase to reach 50% of OMB formula.

The Forest Service's portion of the request is \$223,055. Base funding currently received in 2013-15 is \$44,962, and the requested increase in base funding for extraordinary repairs for 2015-17 is \$178,093.

A prioritized listing of extraordinary repair projects is included in the extraordinary repairs subschedule (because of IBAR's requirement to do so), however these priorities can very easily change, due to unforeseen circumstances and emergencies. The priority listing is only a best estimate at this time. The actual use of these dollars will be left to the discretion of the institutions (with appropriate approvals by the SBHE where required). All NDUS entities will be given the authority to allocate dollars to repair and replacement priorities for regular repair and replacement projects as determined by each entity.

Change Group: A Change Type: A Change No: 20 Priority:

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Per SB2003 (Section 36), "the state board of higher education may adjust full-time equivalent positions as needed, subject to the availability of funds, for institutions and entities under its control during the biennium beginning July 1, 2013, and ending June 30, 2015. The North Dakota university system shall report any adjustments to the office of management and budget before the submission of the 2015-17 biennium budget request." A report was run as of 4-30-2014 to determine the total estimated "appropriated fte" as of that date. Consistent with the methodology used in previous biennia, the current year's annual budgets were used to estimate the amount supported by general fund only, based on the percentage of budgeted general fund revenue to total appropriated revenue.

Observes Observes A	Change Type: C	Change No: 5	Priority: 1
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Forest Service Fire Protection Initiative

The \$633,731 request includes funds for the following:

- \$361,140 Salaries and fringe benefits for three (3 FTE) fire technician positions to assist fire departments, emergency managers, communities and landowners with implementation of fire prevention, suppression and mitigation practices.
- \$93,005 Operating expenses for the following: Travel including motor pool and vouchers to strengthen mutual aid support to rural fire departments, including suppression, preparedness, training and prevention (\$45,255); Office supplies, postage and printing for implementing planning and preparedness practices requested by rural fire departments (\$5,250); Contracts to develop and promote local and regional fire department training programs to provide additional education opportunities and supplement State Fire School courses (\$42,500).
- \$250,000 Grants to at-risk communities and fire departments for personal protective equipment, firefighting equipment, training and hazardous fuels reduction projects to mitigate wildland fire hazards.

\$704,145 Total Estimated Costs

(\$70,414) 10% Match - US Forest Service Hazardous Fuels Reduction grant

\$633,731 Net 2015-17 Request

The North Dakota Cooperative Fire Protection Initiative will provide technical, financial, and educational assistance to prevent, suppress and mitigate wildland fires. The initiative will support: 1) suppression and mutual aid support for the state's rural fire departments, 2) the implementation of planning and preparedness practices with local jurisdictions, 3) educational outreach to communities, landowners and managers on firewise practices and fire prevention, and 4) fire training at the local, regional and statewide level for emergency responders, and 5) grants to at-risk communities and fire departments for equipment, hazardous fuels reduction projects and fire prevention/outreach programs. Funds will also be used for conducting fire risk assessments, preparing firewise plans and the implementation of hazardous fuels reduction projects. The Cooperative Fire Protection Initiative will conserve, protect and enhance at-risk landscapes identified in the North Dakota Statewide Assessment of Forest Resources and Forest Resource Strategy. Upland forests, riparian forests, rural planting and community forests are identified in the priority forest landscapes as needing improved management, restoration and protection. Required by the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill), the forest resource strategy provides a long-term plan for investing state, federal and leveraged resources to address the management, restoration and protection of forest resource landscape priorities. Strategies include: a) conserving and managing working forest landscapes for multiple values and uses, b) protecting forests from threats, including catastrophic wildfires, storms, flooding, insect or disease outbreaks and invasive species, c) enhancing benefits from trees and forests that include air and water quality, soil conservation, wildlife and fish habitat, biological diversity, carbon storage, forest products, forestry related jobs, production of renewable energy and wildlife.

Change Group: A Change Type: E Chan	nange No: 1	Priority:
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Remove 2013-15 Capital Projects

To remove \$785,000 funding authorized for capital projects for the 2013-15 biennium per SB2003-Section 2, (\$785,000 GF for Nursery Freezer and Shop Facility). Campuses will report on the status of the individual projects to the appropriations committees of the sixty-third legislative assembly, as required.

Change Group: A Change Type: E Change No: 3 Priority:

Remove Deferred Maintenance Pool

To remove \$10 million for the deferred maintenance pool, per SB2003-Section 2. SB2003-Section 21 provided the following legislative intent: "The deferred maintenance funding pool line item includes funding that must be used to address deferred maintenance and other infrastructure needs at institutions based on the university system master plan and space utilization study. However, the state board of higher education may distribute up to one-half of the funds in the pool to institutions prior to the completion of the master plan and space utilization study."

The SBHE approved allocation of \$5 of the \$10 million on September 25, 2013. Given the facility master plan was not completed at the time, the initial \$5 million was distributed based on the following:

- Statewide OMB extraordinary repairs formula, which addresses both buildings and infrastructure to bring campuses to a common (or close to common) percent position of the formula;
- Each campus/entity should receive some minimum amount of funding—recommended \$75,000 minimum, except for the Forest Service a minimum of \$30,000;
- Make adjustments to recognize that some campuses have to use a portion of their extraordinary repair formula funding for the payment of city special assessments, on infrastructure not owned by the campus.

With the near completion of the System facility master plan, the SBHE approved the allocation of the remaining \$5 million on June 26, 2014, so the campuses could begin much needed projects. The allocation was based on the following:

- First allocate \$275,000 to VCSU to address a recently identified safety issue at VCSU in the recently retired Science Building. The \$275,000 includes costs for engineering services, relocation and demolition. It does not include other costs related to build a barrier for the hill or to replace asphalt.
- Allocate remaining \$4,725,000 to the 11 institutions based on the average of: the actual deferred maintenance for facilities examined by consultants during the master plan visits (represents about 24% of the overall state appropriated GSF for Type I and II buildings) = +\$200 million; extrapolated deferred maintenance when applied to all appropriated buildings, based on above "sample" condition ("If the condition of these buildings represents similar condition in the rest of the buildings and identified needs to the heating plants and site infrastructure are added in..")

The following allocations, totaling \$10 million, were provided to the campuses and Forest Service, and are being removed in this budget change code: **Forest Service - \$30,000**.

The status of the funding to-date is FY 14 expenditures of \$15,659 for building exterior roofing repairs at the Lisbon Field Office and security fence repairs at the Bottineau Field Office.

Change Group: A Change Type: E Change No: 6 Priority:

Remove 2011-13 Operating Carryover

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To remove the 2011-13 GF operating carryover totaling \$402,086. \$250,000 is funding for the emerald ash borer program to help communities prepare for the arrival of this highly invasive insect by assisting with tree removals and replacements on a 1:1 match. Emerald ash borer is now found in Minnesota and is likely to arrive somewhere in North Dakota in the next few years. \$152,086 is operating funding used for critical equipment needs at Towner State Nursery, Bismarck Field Office and the Bottineau Field Office.

Change Group: A Change Type: F Change No: 2 Priority:

Remove Base Funding Extraordinary Repairs

To remove \$44,962 base funding for extraordinary repairs. This base amount, plus an increase to the base, is being requested for 2015-17, and is reflected in change code AA6. The status of this funding to-date for miscellaneous small projects under \$50,000 is FY 14 expenditures of \$12,590 for the installation of a vault toilet on the Turtle Mountain State Forest campgrounds.

Change Group: A Change Type: F Change No: 4 Priority:

Remove Base Funding Equipment over \$5,000

To remove \$56,248 base funding for equipment>\$5,000. This base funding is added back to the request in **change code AA5.**

Change Group: R Change Type: A Change No: 1 Priority:

Inflationary Adjustment

Provides an inflationary adjustment for the following cost increases:

- Costs to continue FY15 3% salary increases \$48,974
- 2015-17 annual salary increases of 4% FY16 and 4% FY17 \$215,955
- Health insurance premiums @ \$1,161.59 per month \$116,574
- 1% Retirement contribution increase on 1/1/2016 \$22,002

Change Group: R Change Type: A Change No: 2 Priority:

Base Extraordinary Repairs

Provides \$89,222 for base extraordinary repairs, including \$44,260 to increase funding to 20% of the OMB formula

Change Group: R Change Type: A Change No: 3 Priority:

Cooperative Fire Protection Initiative

Provides \$213,385 and 1.00 FTE for the cooperative fire protection initiative, which will provide technical, financial, and educational assistance to prevent, suppress and mitigate wildland fires.